# WENDELL POST

JANUARY FEBRUARY

Vol. XIII No. 4

50 cents

## RECONTEK POT STIRRED

Most of you reading this are probab aware of the proposed hazardous waste pr cessing facility that Recontek, Inc. woul like to build in Orange. This proposal would result in thousands of tons of hazardous wastes from manufacturing processes taking place all over New England being trucked annually over local highways to be processed in a plant that lies a few hundred yards from Mahar Regional High School and from Orange's town well. Also within a mile are the Butterfield Elementary School, a day care center, a nursing home, a dairy farm, and a residential neighborhood. There is particular reason to be concerned about the release of cancer-causing cadmium and nerve-damaging lead into the air. Contanimation of Orange's water supply and of the Quabbin watershed by air or ground pollution or by an accident involving a truck full of hazardous wastes would be disastrous.

It makes good sense to recycle heavy metal wastes rather than to dump them. Massachusetts does produce a large amount of these wastes from high-tech manufacturing and has a moral and legal obligation to dispose of them intelligently or reduce their production! However, the proposed Recontek site on Rt. 122, which is currently geing studied by the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), seems unsuitable for a variety of reasons. These include the risks associated with the transfer of these wastes over our roads, the proximity of the plant to "sensitive receptors" such as Mahar, the Quabbin Valley Convalescent Center, etc. and the risk to the Orange water supply as well as other considerations.

Many people from the greater Orange area have mobilized to research the issues, communicate concerns to officials and educate the community about the complicated process involved in approval or disapproval of the Recontek site. The Committee for Public Health and Safety (CPHS) meets every other Tuesday night and opposes the site! Their next meeting is January 22, 7 p.m. at the Orange Trading Post. Citizens Against Risking the Environment (CARE) also opposes the project. (FACT) is a group which supports the proposed Recontek plant, largely for economic reasons.

1991

At present, the DEP is gathering technical information and comments from the public which relate to five regulatory criteria: (1) transportaion risks, (2) adequacy of buffer zones between active parts of the facility and areas of public access, (3) nearby population density, (4) proximity to sensitive receptors, and (5) effective timely evacuation in case of accident. Comments may be written to Steven Dreeszen, Division of Hazardous Wastes, 1 Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108 before February 18. DEP will hold a hearing on site suitability on February 4 at 7 p.m. at the Butterfield School in Orange.

Referendum petitions are now being circulated in Orange which will lead to a town vote on March 4 on the Recontek plant and on site zoning.

Those interested in speaking directly to officials from Recontek's only operating plant recently opened in Newmann, Illinois may meet with them on January 10, 17, 24 and 31 at the Wheeler Library in Orange from 9-12 and 2-8.

The decision about whether the Recontek plant will be sited near Mahar is a state decision. If we the people do not pay attention, become informed, and voice our concerns, this project and others will occur around us. Let your voice be heard!

Nancy Spittle

## TOWN ELECTION INFO

Town elections will be held May 4, 1991 for 14 positions. Candidates must file papers by March 18 to get their names on the ballot. The last day of voter registration is April 16.

These offices are opening:

- 1 selectman
- 1 assessor
- 2 board of health
- 1 planning board
- 1 moderator
- 1 constable
- 1 cemetery commissioner
- 1 road commissioner
- 2 school committee
- 1 tree warden
- 2 library trustees

## POSITIONS OFFERED BY TOWN

The selectboard is looking for help in three categories: building code enforcement, clerk, and mediation.

A new position of assistant to the building inspector has been created to help with zoning enforcement. "This is open as a volunteer position now," according to Kathleen Ramsay, shared administrative assistant. The building inspector, Anne Perkins, administers the provisions of Wendell's new, large, and complex zoning bylaw, and she needs help.

A Green Thumb worker (someone over age 55 who falls within income guidelines) is sought to fill the position of selectboard clerk. The person would help to prepare and type reports and letters. He or she would not have to attend selectboard meetings and take minutes, as that job is currently taken care of by another position.

Finally, the Town is looking for persons trained in mediation who could be called on by the selectboard for conflict resolution.

Jonathan von Ranson

# the Wendell Post

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Jan./Feb. 1991

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A Thousand Pardons to Those Omitted or MisNamed, or Misspelled, or otherwise Offended.

***Post policy is that every article be signed. We regret author credit omissions where authorship unknown.

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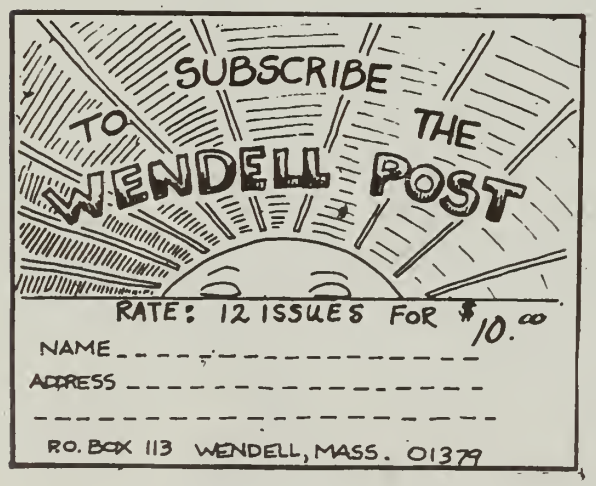
EXPLANATION/APOLOGY/APPEAL

If you submitted an article and your carefully crafted literary piece doesn't appear, or appears in shortned form, please accept our apologies, and consider these facts:

- We were deluged with articles this issue, on top of some holdovers from last issue
- We can only omit artwork (photos and other graphics) up to a certain point before the pages look like seas of gray
- The over-a,l size of the Post is limited by how many pages we can afford to print. Ads and subscriptions make up the bulk of our operating capital, with some additional monies from benefits.

Your help in keeping your articles short in the future would be appreciated.



## HOUSEBREAK ON WEST ROAD

To the People of Wendell:

My name is Tammy Ingersoll. My family and I live in the new red duplex on West Rd. in Wendell. While on vacation, our house was broken into. Outside of the vandelism, our VCR (Kenwood), 50 or 60 kids tapes, an air powered Bee Bee gun and 2 bottles of booze and a 12 pack of beer was missing. I truly believe that it was kids because of all the things they didn't take and the fact that all 50 or 60 VCR tapes were children's tapes (cartoons, major animated motion pictures and learning tapes). Although we feel that these items are long gone and my kids are the ones that suffered for it, the violation and helpless feeling remains. I'm scared to leave my home and just as scared to stay alone here. I want the people of Wendell to know so you can keep your eyes and ears open. Also, I would like anyone interested in setting up a neighborhood watch to call me at 544-7478 or (413) 773-5325 (wk.). I will call the police chief to find out how to go about setting up a neighborhood watch. We can make Wendell safer. It is up to us. We can make a differeance.

## WHY THE WILD

To speak in defense of "wild values" is to run a flag up the pole that everyone in Wendell can shoot at, from any compass-point of opinion or prejudice. But then, that may demonstrate there's nothing left to defend in the first place.

It's one thing to protest the burning of tropical forests, but something entirely different to bring the thought home to Wendell, where we are degrading the land, lent to us by our children, quite as uncaringly, if less spectacularly, as the incendiarists are doing to the rain forest. Justice demands that I include myself in this indictment, but it is true that there are some among us who truly do "live lightly on the land."

What does it mean, live lightly on the land? The idea is appealing, but fuzzy. We are told we are ruining the planet so rapidly that it may not support life, any life, within a few hundred years. Not a scientist, I don't know if the dramatic warning is true or not. But that's not relevant; what is true is that alarms are sounding everywhere, and none of our learned thinkers and scientists have shown that they are false alarms. And because they sound so frequently, I would not bet that Life will make it through the Great Fossil-fuel Catastrophe. The planet will not care; it is wild and will stay so regardless of our puny efforts to "tame" it. Why then even entertain the notion of living lightly on the land?

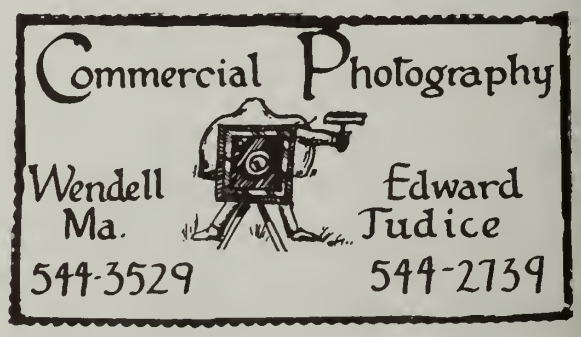
We've always had people among us who know that the planet is wild, and who respect it for that very reason. Humble people they were, with no pretensions to power, let alone aspirations to omnipotence, over nature. They know that the earth gives its gifts most bounteously to those who; live in dialogue with it. To live lightly is to connect with what is fundamental and real; is to understand that food, shelter and culture are Gifts for which an Exchange is appropriate. If I kill and animal to use it, the first thing I do is Give Back some of it - a little blood, or some guts. That is, I share the proceeds of my weighty action with other life. Likewise with the compost pile. Nothing is wasted. The transformations of matter into energy, and endlessly back again, resonate harmonically down to the atomic level, as they have in the whole history of the planet.

But if I bring my apples home from the store in one of those scuzzy, synthetic membranes made from oil, I cheat the Gift-Exchange way at least a little, and join with those who are skinning the earth alive, ripping it open and sucking its juices in exchange for lumps of metal or pieces of paper merely. If you think this is a mystical idea, you may be correct - but I won't apologize, because the crisis of the planet is real. I must "think globally" and "act Wendell", in a thousand new, unfamiliar and weird-seeming ways: if Wendell grew all its apples, we wouldn't have to blow all that $CO_2$ into the air to bring tasteless Red Delicious apples from the great state of Washington. Think of the Culture that could grow along with those Gifts for Wendell soil - now that's mystical!

When the smothering of the earth makes me morose, which it sometimes does, amazingly small things make my greedy heart sing again. A perfect oak leaf can erase from memory all the years I ate steak and drank whiskey freely. I admit, sometimes it's enough to crack my poor brain to grasp that what I think I'm just "taking for granted" is something I'm truly hooked on. Conversations with Thoreau, and many others, have helped. I am (painfully) changing my ways, like this: giving up TV relatively was easy. There was twinkling color in my back yard one summer day, a pair of courting warblers, and figuring out what they were up to simply took up all my TV watching time. Giving up one electric appliance made letting go of others easier, too. Until Alvin Marks has his day, I can't flip a switch without knowing I'm helping kill the planet.

And so on. The analysis is very demanding, and the toughest test is yet to come. Loss is after all the root basis for most human misery. But maybe, just as matter and energy transforms into each other ceaselessly in this marvelously marginal web of life, so too it may be with loss and gain. When I had a car, it took half an hour to travel for the mail and back. Now biking, it takes a whole hour. But since I started I've gotten closer to Wendell itself. Now, I meet the deer, the muskrats, the birds and the mink, my other neighbors..."Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning-star..." said Henry, before the matter was so urgent. I can't help wondering if all the cars passing my house of a morning, with one person aboard, are in fact going off to seek their fortune, or are really spending it?

Bob Ellis

# MORSE VILLAGE RD CONTROVERSY RETOLD

When I first moved to town several years ago I kept hoping to find some straight direct roads. When I saw on a map that Morse Village Rd. was the most direct route from Wendell Center to New Salem and Route 202, I decided to give it a try. Since there were no signs warning of bad road conditions, I was very surprised at the poor shape of the road. Luckily this was several years ago and my car has high clearance so I made it through. Others have not been as lucky.

Over the last couple of years the road has further deteriorated. It is badly eroded and washed out. People who live on either end of the road have complained about "four wheeled marauders" who worsen the erosion and illegally trespass on land belonging to the Conneticut River Watershed Council.

According to selectboard member Margo Culley, the town first tried to have the road discontinued in 1985. However, Morse Village Rd. is a county road so it can only be discontinued by an act of the county commissioners. In 1987, the town meeting unanimously voted to petition the county to discontinue the road. She said the county had not responded by the time Mason Phelps approached her with the subject in 1989.

Mason Phelps is the steward of the Conn. River Watershed Council. If the road is discontinued, ownership of the land will revert to the abutters. This sanctuary has 1900 acres and abutts almost a mile of the road.

At a special town meeting on Sept. 26th, residents voted 38 to 22 in favor of discontinuing the road. Margo said the selectboard sent a letter in support of discontinuing the road to the county commissioners along with a petition to keep the road open signed by many residents of Wendell and New Salem.

Margo told me that keeping the road open is a long term maintenance problem. She said extensive work would be required to prevent the seasonal flooding and erosion. With the limited town road budget, choices must be made. The section in question has no houses, while other roads in need of work, like Jennison Rd., have many school children.

She said there has been no written estimate to repair the road. She said she has heard estimates of up to $40,000, although volunteer labor has also been suggested.

It is hoped by some that discontinuing the road will help restore "law and order". In addition to four wheelers, trespassing, vandalism, illegal dumping and poaching have also been reported.

According to Mason Phelps, if the road is closed, gates will be placed on both ends of the discontinued section with room left for parking. He said there would be open access from the New Salem side for those wishing to visit the "smallpox cemetery" on foot. The gates could be opened for those who need to drive in to reach the cemetery with advance notice. He said they hoped to keep the road driveable at least that far. The gates would also allow access for fire trucks and utility trucks. Those who wanted to leave the road and enter the sanctuary would need to obtain written permission and follow the rules.

Residents opposed to closing the road have several concerns. Dave Wilder told me he believes law and order could be maintained by having the road open so the police crusier could patrol it. He does not want to see the most direct route to 202 and 122 closed. It is also unclear that blocking Morse Village Road would stop the 4 wheel drive vehicles that trepass on sanctuary land. Apparently, many come in on the access road under the power lines.

On December 13, 1990 the County Commissioners voted 2 to 1 to discontinue Morse Village Rd. from the New Salem line to the western boundary of the Ct. River Watershed Council land. County Engineer Bill Allen told me that this "semi-judicial" ruling was made by weighing many considerations and not by just counting opinions. While the town meeting approved discontinuing the road 38 to 22, Allen said the petition opposing the road closing had the signatures of 73 people who Allen said, "supposedly couldn't attend the town meeting."

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You don't have to go to Northampton or Greenfield. If you dismiss the Athol Memorial Hospital out of hand, you're missing out on a chance to utilize and support a vital community institution, where quality health care is provided by dedicated employees. And consider this: for most residents of Wendell, Athol Memorial is the nearest hospital.

**Need a doctor?**

You don't have to go to Amherst, Northampton or Greenfield. Find out about MDs practicing in Athol and Orange, including specialists in many fields who conduct regular clinics in the AMH Medical Arts Building. Call Allen Young, director of public relations, 249-3511, Ext. 143.

Athol Memorial Hospital

# GROUPS USE SENIOR CENTER

The Council on Aging is happy to report that the Senior Center is being used by both children's and adult groups. Both are working smoothly.

We feel that all persons using the Center should be familiar with the rules and regulations:

1. It will be for use for Wendell groups and organizations only.
2. Any group who wishes to apply for use of the Senior Center should meet with the Council On Aging prior to make arrangements for occupancy.
3. On leaving the Center,
   a. Turn down heat to 60 degrees.
   b. Shut off all lights and lock all doors.
   c. Please clean up after your meeting and take trash with you when you leave.
4. Donations are requested from adult groups to help pay for heat and lights.
5. Remember that the Senior Center is a non-smoking area.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# NEW PHONE RATES

LOCAL CALLS FROM WENDELL:

| | |
|---|---|
| Amherst | Leverett |
| Shutesbury | Sunderland |
| Ashfield | Athol |
| Bernardston | Charlemont |
| Colrain | Conway |
| Greenfield | Millers Falls |
| Monroe Bridge | Montague |
| Northfield | Orange |
| Petersham | Shelburne Falls |
| South Deerfield | Turners Falls |

This is the result of the rate changes that were enacted on October 19, 1990. Because this is the first major rate change in about ten years, it is suggested that people review the services they pay for now to determine if they are still the cheapest options available. There is a free guide available from the Mass. Office of Consumer Affairs that has just been published. You can order it by writing to the Dept. of Public Utilities, Attn: Richard Hastings, Leverett Saltonstall Building, 100 Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02202.

*** Editor's Note -- Infact the local calling range has not changed for the town of Wendell. These exchanges have been local calls for several years. Including Amherst is confusing, not all the exchanges in the Amherst area are local calls.

# LOOK FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Sad to say Chris Wings is no longer a library trustee. We are looking for an energetic and interested person to fill her position.

Library trustees meet monthly and make decisions about library policy book buying, budget, hiring of library personal and special functions with our communtiy. If you are interested please call.

Judy Pratt 544-2143
Sylvia Wetherby 544-6146

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# O'DOWD NOW POSTMASTER ONE YEAR

Who is that man antway, who always greets his patrons so cheerfully, and offers courteous and helpful service? I had the good fortune on Jan. 15 to interview our postmaster Charles O'Dowd (Charlie to his friends) during a brief lull in his busy work day.

What struck me easily and often during our conversation was his unabashed love for his job. To be in a position of public service comes very naturally to Charlie. His great grandmother, who lived in Concord, MA where was Charlie was born, was a persistent advocate for children's and women's rights in the Industrial Age. A contemporary of Louse May Alcott, she would gather with the businessmen of her community over tea to push for changes. One of Charlie's grandfathers was responsible for long distance telephone lines, and at the end of WW II Charlie's father was so moved by the destruction of Europe, he brought back Dutch and German refugees to start one of the 1st foreign repair shops on the country.

Turning to Charlie's own past, as a non-combatant C.O. during Vietnam in '67-'68, he decribes being "profoundly affected" by the mistreatment of Vietnamese women. When an explosion cut short his tour, he became involved back in this country with shelters for battered women and children. He later wrote and received a 3 year grant to advocate for the disabled with a focus on transportation accessibility. Over the course of the grant the Brattle and Park St. stations in Boston were made handicapped accessible along with the ferry service to Nantucket. Another highlight included the convening of an international conference on handicapped accessibility from which spawned another grant totaling $800,000 for elderly and handicapped equipment for Western MA. In 1984, after the grant expired, Charlie returned to the postal service for the 3rd time. From loading and unloading trucks, Charlie moved to supervisor of mails and later to systems compliance analyst. When the postal service implemented cost cutting measures a couple of years ago, Charlie, whose job was to be eliminated, was offered his current post in Wendell because of his prior field experience. This coming February will mark his first anniversary in Wendell.

Charlie is 45, married to Kathleen and has 2 children, Mona and Chip. He resides in West Hatfield. I also learned that Charlie,averaging 3½ hours of sleep a night, attained 4 degrees, 2 undergraduate and 2 masters; in anthropology, education, management, and finance. It may come as a surprise to some that Charlie is an accomplished ice hockey goaltender. He plays on the Senior U.S. team and has garnered 1 gold and 4 silver medals in international competition.

As dusk set in on our interview and Charlie began to prepare for the arrival of the afternoon mail truck, he described it as an "honor" to be a postmaster; to continue in a long tradition of reliable public service which dates back to the time of Benjamin Franklin.

Charlie had brought out two shoe boxes which for someone else might have contained a prized collection of sea shells or baseball cards. Charlie, with obvious pride, pulled out a sampling of custom cancellation stamps, and pointed out that each letter is hand stamped before it leavesWendell.

I was impressed with Charlie's clear committment to excellence but just as much by his personal touch; his effort to double check zip codes so our mail gets to its destination or his eagerness to help customers properly wrap packages. By the end of our interview I felt that Charles had become Charlie and was glad that, for however long it might be, Charlie's life's travels have paused here in Wendell.

# MEETING HOUSE A PHOENIX

On October 1st the Wendell Church (Meeting House) closed due to financial burdens involved with keeping it open.

Since that time Rosalie Rosser has taken on the financial responsibility for once again opening the Meeting House. Her goals are to create a cultural center in Wendell that will be self-sustaining and to keep the space available to church members for their use.

The Meeting House is currently being put to good use by Kuumba for her African dance class, Daria Nielson's creative dance classes for young children; Ron Meck for yoga classes, arts and crafts fairs and exhibits and worship services.

It is available for use by local residents for classes, meetings, rehearsal, etc. There is a minimal fee which helps cover the costs to keep the meetinghouse open. For more details call Rosalie Tosser 544-6850.

# INTRODUCTION TO AIKIDO

Aikido is a dynamic martial art form. Instead of meeting force with force, the Aikidoist moves with an opponent's force. This style demands quick and effective knowledge of how your own body reacts to tension and fear. Through the study of Aikido you can learn how to reduce stress and improve coordination. In addition, a number of defensive techniques are taught to diffuse conflicts.

A six week introductory course is being offered at the Swift River School in Wendell. Participants will learn how to roll and fall, techniques for defense, the basic principles of Aikido and methods for reducing stress.

The instructor is Ria McRae a second Kyu and a student of Ralph Chiaradia, of Hartford Connecticut, a fifth degree black belt in Aikido. The Wendell Aikido Club will be offering this six week course on Wednesday nights starting on February 13th for a nominal fee. For registration call 508-544-2226.

# DEATH

# BOB WILLIAMS

Charles Robert "Bob" Williams, born in Cranston, RI, on May 10, 1914, was born during the First World War and died on Armistice's Day, November 11, 1990. He died in the Northampton V.A. Hospital of a long illness. The former owner of the Warwick Inn, 1966 to 1985. He is survived by his son, Gregg C. Williams, of Orange and a grandson, Gregg O. Williams, of Orange. He was a veteran of the Navy serving during World War II.

Greg Williams

# LAND TRANSFERS

Joann D. Miller and Samuel E. Miller, Jr. to Roger W. Choiniere and Debra A. Matusewicz 4.064 Acres and Buildings on Wickett Pond Road 6/29/90

Judith A. Shaw to Sara Elinoff and Robbie Leppzer - 4 acres & buildings 4/20/90

Anne G. Zak to Sally Ann Colbert - Locke Hill Road - 3.0047 acres 3/30/90

Valley Land Fund, Inc. to the Commonwealth - Benjamin Hill Rd. - 40 acres 5/11/88

Fifty-one acres taken by Commonwealth of Massachusetts for MDC - T.S. Mann Lumber Co., Inc., paid by Commonwealth 6/28/90

Linda M. Alger to Nancy C. Skowrowski - 87,120 sq. ft. & bldgs. 5/10/90 Wendell Depot Road

# AA MEETING

Open AA meeting, nonsmoking, varied format. Sundays 6-7 p.m. Wendell Senior Center in the Center of Wendell next to the "People of Peace" house, opposite the graveyard. All are welcome to attend and share."


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## STAR ROUTE RIDERS

One could consider the new ride board in the center of town and the recently devised Star Route Rider ride sharing network as an alternative to our culture's huge dependency on oil and all the resulting consequences of that dependency. The crisis in the gulf and the state of our environment exemplifies how down and out and desperate we are as a culture for a fix of that oil. Indeed the number of troops in the gulf, the associated costs and mostly the potential loss of life is staggering. And yet, perhaps the most often overlooked statistics are of the death toll on American soil, on our very own highways from automobile accidents. It has averaged 50,000 deaths a year for the past fifteen years. If we as a culture can so easily ignore the highway death toll will we also ignore these facts:
One new model automobile over its lifetime will emit --
*100 pounds of smog forming compounds
*500 pounds of cancer causing chemicals
*34 tons of global warming gases (carbon dioxide)
Multiply this times 146 million cars on the road.

Driving automobiles seems to be our nations most dangerous addiction. Indeed driving is seen as a basic right, virtually a symbol of individual freedom as well as an absolute necessity that we couldn't possibly do without. However, by reducing the number of trips by any percentage and improving the efficiency of your car by any percentage, the reductions in emissions could be dramatic.

We can accomplish significant reductions by careful planning of automobile trips. Hopefully the ride board in front of the Meeting House and the Star Route Rider ride sharing network can help town folks to do more ride sharing and consolidation of auto trips.

The rideboard is designed for folks to put a note up for rides needed or rides offered whether that be for long or short distances. So next time you know you are going to Greenfield next Tuesday afternoon or heading to the Cape in three weeks for a weekend or driving to Florida in February, just put a note and perhaps costs can be shared and a new friendship made. It may take time for this concept to catch, so don't get frustrated if you aren't called right off.
The Star Route Rider network is designed more for the commuter who has a fairly regular schedule. It lists members destinations, departure and return times. There are over 40 listings already and there is a good chance that you'll find someone going the same way as you, at nearly the same times.

Both of these options may require greater organization on our parts and perhaps some inconveniencies, but with a little effort and flexibility, we can do our part to reduce emissions, save resources and create the kind of world we want to live in.

If you would like to join Star Route Riders call 544-8457 for info

If you currently are a member and need to update the bulletin of changes in your schedule call 544-6933 leave message

Joyce Greenberg

WENDELL CHURCH
SERVICES
SUNDAYS
12 - 1

## A RAINBOW OVER GULF

Well, here we are on the dawn of another year. Not too long ago I recall the town of Wendell being host to the Rainbow Family. I guess it was back during the Thanksgiving holiday.

I felt it was especially important to reflect back on that time and how it reminds me a bit of the impending Gulf War. Mind you I am writing this on Jan. 16th.

Having spent a fair amount of time with the Rainbow circle. I was quietly excited at hearing of their arrival. I guess this wasn't true for all town folks and I can understand that feeling. Having moved here from a pretty depressed and sometimes violent neighborhood. I can still vividly remember my first couple of months there, before I got accustom to my neighbor's way of being. See I grew up in a pretty homogeneous crowd and newness can some times be frightening.

During the Rainbow meeting here, there were evening drumming sessions that I recall as being one of the central themes of all gatherings. It was great to see everyone dancing around. I began to wonder what it would be like if this was a group of Shriners or a group of folks going out and doing war games in the woods ( you know shooting each other with pellets of dye).

I heard that although they picked up pretty well after themselves, not everyone liked the fact that we don't have the best restroom facilities to offer such large groups. Now I think that we are pretty darn lucky to live in a country where everyone has the option of a flushy.

I was also a bit suprised to hear from some neighbors that they felt this group was a bit out of bounds or too "hippie like". Now where have I heard that description before?? If my short term memory serves me right I think it was used to describe folks here in Wendell.

Well, what does this have to do with the Gulf War (in between breaks of writing, I heard of bombers flying!). See, I learned a lot from my old neighborhood as I did from the Rainbow Family. I didn't always like what I saw, but I guess, well I'm pretty opinionated. We got us one big world of neighbors, who do things in ways that I can't really debate on without understanding more of their culture and history. I don't think it's a good idea going into other folks' countries and saying mine! mine! mine! I guess I never did like our foreign policy and I don't think I like Saddam's either.

I don't think it is right being my neighbors keeper. I've got enough dirty laundry of my own before I need to go clean my neighbors. I thought we had enough dirty laundry hear in the good old US. Maybe it's our obssesion with needing to be clean, who knows.

I wonder,...if we could have been a little more intent on our own business of housekeeping, then maybe we wouldn't have had such a strong need to look at our neighbor's clothesline?

Well, I gotta go and do my wash and figure out a way to save my gas. I heard from George that those folks selling energy effiecient devicies are just trying to make a buck and they don't even work anyways. Maybe I'll just go sit on my flushy and think that one over.

Alexandria McRae

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# Selectboard minutes HIGHLIGHTS

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379

TOWN HALL 617 544 3395

MEMBERS - Margo Cullev, Anne Zak, Ted Lewis

November 6, 1990

Pole Hearing - Bullard Pasture Road - Mr. Putman objected to the Electric Co.'s plan to install a pole on his property which would act as a support for a new service on the opposite side of the road. He suggested the new pole be erected with a knee brace or stud pole. The Board recessed on this question and will reconvene at a future date if the Electric Co. cannot use the stud pole.

TownOffice Heat -- Presently heating system distributes heat unevenly. Ann Zak will make and install a vee shaped deflector on the heating vent which will spread the air flow more evenly.

Wendell truck drivers will be required to take the C.D.L. test.

Cheryl Richardson is Wendell's representative to the Mahar Regionalization Exploration Subcommittee.

November 13, 1990
Minutes

Display of hunting game - Board will suggest a citizens petition by-law to have game hung at least 100 feet back from the road at the annual Town meeting. The Board also suggested parents who are concerned over this issue might write a letter to the offending person requesting him to hang his game out of sight of the children.

Montague Road abandoned dumpster - The Board of Health referred the Selectboard to the law on Common Nuisances Chapt. 139. The BOS will notify the landowners of said law.

The Board was notified of Rosalie Rosser's intention of taking over the Church bldg. as a rental space for arts and crafts etc. She will pay expenses and eventually do repairs.

Town Hall Sleepovers - The Board voted to disallow all sleepover requests by groups renting the Wendell Town Hall. Renters may, however, make use of the bathroom facilities at all times.

Recontek Grant Proposal - The towns of Warwick, Erving, Royalston, New Salem and Wendell have jointly written a grant proposal seeking funds for technical assistance regarding the effects of the proposed hazardous waste facility being considered for the Town of Orange.

DOE VALLEY
Deli & Bakery
SO. MAIN ST.
ORANGE 7:30-2:00
(508) 544-8363

November 20, 1990

Senior Center - Elizabeth Scully appeared before the Board as a representative of The Council on Aging. The Council wanted the Board to set a fee schedule for the use of the Senior Center to help defray the cost of heating fuel. The Board voted to charge groups as follows: The Rainbow Council, $15.00 per day.
Morse Village Rd. - Ms. Blackbird inquired about the road and was told the Conn. Watershed will maintain the road from New Salem to the cemetery. Mason Phelps will post directions to the place where citizens can pick up lifetime passes to the area.

Dumpster on Montague Rd. - The Wendell Board of Health has informed the property owners by mail that it must be removed and that failure to do so will provoke the Bd. of Health to put a lien on the property.

Grease Trap - At the request of the Bd. of Health Ms. Ramsey will contact the Highway Dept. The trap will be filled with hydraulic cement. In future it will be required to be pumped out once a year at a cost of $1000.00. Ms. Ramsey will suggest the Highway Dept. include this amount in their yearly budget. The Bd. of Health will monitor the process.

Bulk Mail - After a more in depth inquiry into the pros and cons of the bulk mail issue the Board decided it would not be in the Town's best interest to pursue it at this time.

Lock Hill Rd.#1 - Legal Status Inquiry - The Board voted permission be granted to build on this site due to the Grandfather Clause unless the Bldg. Inspector should have any legal objections.

Town Treasurer Report - Ms. Wilder wrote a letter to Mr. Lubinsky requesting $79,000.00 of the school construction reimbursement funds. She will write to the auditors re: the lack of interest earned on this money.
Tax bills will go out on Dec. 8th and payment will be due on Jan. 8th 1991.

Unregistered Vehicles - Selectmen will cruise the area with the police to check on unregistered vehicles. Selectmen will send registered letters to the offenders. The police will be notified if the letters are ignored.

Health Insurance - Mr. Gates reported all town workers ,hired or elected are entitled to insurance if they work 20 hrs or more each week. He suggested the Board put the question to the people at a Town meeting.

Old Erving Rd. - Mr. Gates suggested the Board put an article on the warrant at Town meeting requesting the sum of $750.00 for a county engineer survey if the people who live on the road refuse to share the cost of such a survey.

December 4, 1990
Minutes

Thanksgiving Town Hall Rental - Rosalie Rosser, Marianne Sundell, Jimmie Twofeathers and Larry Bondem appeared before the Board in defense of alleged infractions of the rental contract by the Rainbow Council. They appeared at the request of the Selectboard.
They agreed with the Board that the number of people who attended was far greater than originally planned. They apologized and promised never to have such a large group again in Wendell. On the positive side it was mentioned they did an exceptional job of cleaning all areas before leaving. Also they will pay an extra $100.00 to the Town.

Health Insurance - The Selectboard reaffirmed Chapter 32 B of MGL: to offer health insurance to town employees (whether appointed or elected) who are required to work no less than 20 hours regularly in the service of the town during the regular work week. Said 20 hours will be recorded on weekly time logs verified by Selectboard monthly. Employees will have a probationary period of three months during which time they will document their working hours.

Ms. Ramsey wrote a grannt application for $3,200.00 for a pavement striper.

December 18, 1990

Finance Committee met with Selectboard to discuss:
Mahar fy92 Budget
Mahar Plans to sue the Town of Orange for fy91 assessment
Grease Trap Expenses
It was decided to award the Town Hall Repairs contract to Bud Davis

Board of Health members, Sharon Gensler, Robert Leet, and David Walsh and Wendell Building Inspector, Ann Perkins met with the Selectboard to discuss substandard housing in the Town of Wendell.
The Board of Health members also reported on the disposition of the dumpster abandoned on Montague Road.

Rental of Old Town Barn - The Board decided not to rent the Old Town Barn to a profit making organization. They will discuss the matter further at a later date.

Regionalization - Cheryl Richardson reported that after a study of similar such programs the committee

Burnett Builders
544-3430
Wendell Ma.

will write a proposal delineating the feasibility of regionalization in this area or suggesting reasons to abandon the plan altogether.

Judith Wilder, Town Treasurer, will speak to the Swift River School Auditors re: monies owed to Wendell and the interest accrued.

The Wendell Golden Age Club gave the Town of Wendell a check in the amount of $25.00 to help defray the cost of fuel for heating the Senior Center.

December 11, 1990
Minutes

Members Present - Margo Culley, Ann Zak, Ted Lewis

Meeting Convened 7:00 p.m./Minutes read and approved

Town Hall Repair Quotes - A bid of $4,750.00 was submitted by Hal Flynn. The only other bid submitted was by Bud Davis for the amount of $2,420.00. The amount of $2,000.00 had been allotted for the repairs. The Board voted to place an article on the Town meeting warrant requesting a transfer of funds to cover the $2,420.00 bid.

The Board signed the renewal form for a Class III license for Robin Pierce.

Old Erving Road Update - A meeting was planned for January 1991 at which time The Board will meet with Mr. Kupper, and the abutters, Sid Mann and Don Ellis, to discuss the cost of legal and survey fees.

Dumpster - The Board of Health will go through the contents of the dumpster left on Montague Rd. to discover the names of those people who were using it illegally.

Road Commission re: Farley Bridge contract - Harry Wiliston reported the forms were on the way to Northampton and reimbursement for the deck and railing will be forthcoming.

New Salem Rd. will be paved. The cost has been approved and will be reimbursed through Chapter 90 funds upon completion.

A meeting of the Road Commission, The Rural Design Committee and the Selectboard was set for January 16, 1991.

The Board approved Mr. Williston's suggestion of putting a step system in place for salary increases so new people will not be hired at the same pay rate as persons with seniority.

FY '92 Budget Requests - A discussion re: a more equitable hourly salary rate for town employees took place. A meeting for further discussion of this matter was set for Jan. 5, 1991 at 1:00p.m

Veterans Administration - Selectmen were notified of a new client for Veterans aide. 75% of the amount will be reimbursed by the government.

Administrative Assistant's report on the School Committee meeting - New Salem Board of Health request s that the sinks and water fountains be cleaned and sanitized every day.
The next meeting of the School Superintendents and the Principals is scheduled for Jan. 7, 1991.
Of five School Committee members who represent Wendell only one was present at this meeting. This it seems is an ongoing problem.
Safety Concern - Demolition trucks going too fast past the school between the hour of 8 and 9:00 A.M. The Board will request the police to check on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
by Elizabeth T. Scully
Selectmen's Clerk

## THORNTON BURGESS SOCIETY

The Wendell Free Library has received a donation of eight books of Thornton W. Burgess from the Thornton W. Burgess Society of Sandswich, Massachusetts. The donation is one of 30 made this year by the Society to schools and libraries across the country during National Children's Book Week, November 11 - 17, 1990.

Thornton W. Burgess was a children's author and naturalist who wrote over 170 books for children in his career spanning six decades. His books, including Old Mother West Wind, The Adventures of Peter Rabbit, The Dear Old Briar Patch and many more introduced generations of children to Peter Rabbit, Jimmy Skunk, Little Joe Otter and dozens of other animal characters. Burgess was one of the nation's pioneer conservationists, and his influence on young and old spread around the world.

The Thornton W. Burgess Society, located in Sandwich, Massachusetts, is a non-profit organization chartered to continue the work of Thornton W. Burgess "to inspire reverence for wildlife and concern for the natural environment." It operates the Thornton W. Burgess Museum and the Green Briar Nature Center in Sandwich and offers programs in natural history and conservation throughout the year.

The Thornton W. Burgess Society has been making donations to schools and libraries for over a decade. The purpose of the program is to promote the continued use of Burgess' books and to instill in the present and future generations the same concern for wildlife and conservation that inspired Mr. Burgess.

The Burgess Book Donation Program is supported by contributions of books from Little, Brown and Company publishers of Boston and by donations from members and friends of the Society.

For additional information about this or other programs of the Thornton W. Burgess Society, write the Society at 6 Discovery Hill Road, East Sandwich, MA 02537

Rosie Heidkamp

## ♡PLACES OF THE HEART

**First Edition of "Community Vision of the Future" To Be Published**

**Last year at this time the Wendell community joined in telling each other what it was that was special and valuable about living in Wendell. Over 200 Wendell residents responded to the "Places of the Heart Survey" which asked extensive questions about what it means to live in the Wendell community.**

**The Rural Design Committee felt from the beginning that one of the most important parts of the study was to get the results back in the hands of the community to review. Committee member Michael Idoine said, " that way people can see what they had to say in the context of what other people have said and be reassured that what they said really does count."**

**The committee has been struggling to get the report copied this past Fall. It sought money from two Town committees, who replied that they could not afford the money under the present fiscal situation. The committee felt however that it was important that this report be available free to Wendell citizens.**

**So, Idoine solicited $300-$500 from the Bear Mountain Preservation Association, as well as, a donation of volunteer time to get an edition of 100 copies made for distribution in Wendell. The volunteers hope to get this edition out in Early February and welcome any additional help or donations for the project.**

**Association President, Bob Ellis said, "members of the Bear Mountain Association [felt this study project] fell within the compass of the association's work. It seems natural to foster the human Wendell community, as well as, the community of Bear Mountain and the wilderness. We are pleased that the study attempted to get the maximum diversity of opinions."**

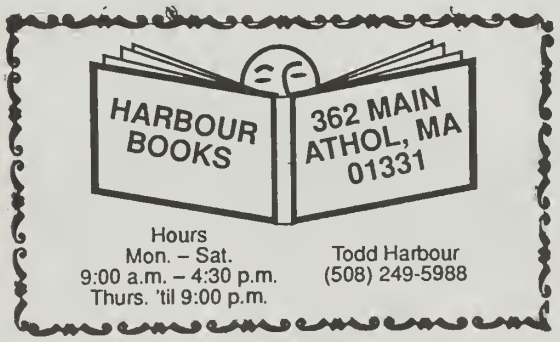
**Idoine agreed saying, "The committee was convinced all along that the more openly the issues were discussed, the better the solutions will be." The Rural Design Committee plans to put several copies of the report in the Wendell Free Library along with all the orignal responses as a reference.**

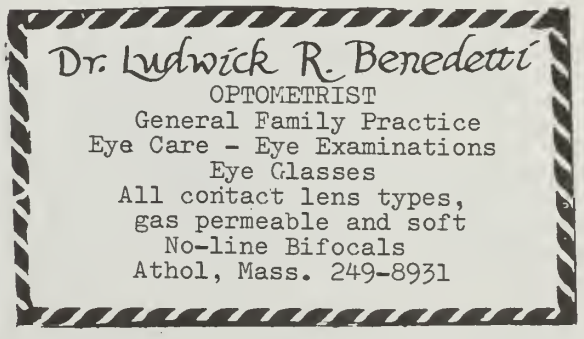
**Michael Idoine**

## GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE

The recycling grant awarded to Wendell and Orange includes $5,000 dollars for educational programs and material for our community. The recycling committee is interested in having school-based programs at both Swift River and Mahar to promote more recycling in the schools as well as in the students' homes. The program could consist of classroom presentations and/or general assemblies. Call Joyce @ 544-8457 for specifics on proposal requirements if interested in applying for grant money.

If anyone has any other ideas for educational work in our community, contact the recycling committee members.



# WINTER BIRDS OF WENDELL

Winter! Birds! Yeah! Even for those who find winter an unpleasant experience, there can be a special delight in noticing birds and feeding them in the yard. With leaves long buried under the snow, exposed trunks and branches offer easy views of feisty nuthatches, unobtrusive brown creepers, and assorted woodpeckers as they search the bark for sleepy grubs and insects. Chickadees chatter and fly busily from branch to branch in small winter flocks that move through the open woods. They're seeking out abundant food sources and often alert other species of birds to freshly stocked feeders and other avian gastronomical delights. You might be lucky enough to glimpse a Pileated Woodpecker, or hear the mating serenade of a Great Horned Owl on a dark and starry night. Perhaps your backyard feeder will be invaded one day by a flock of Evening Grosbeaks or Purple Finches. Winter in Wendell can offer many such glimpses into the lives of birds, often right from your window.

After the departure of summer bird residents by late fall, the landscape seems strangely quiet, but for the raucous presence of crows. It is then that our permanent avian residents take the stage. Chickadees, nuthatches, jays, and woodpeckers become more visible as winter approaches, working trees and feeders for food. It is a great time to get to know these birds better, their calls, and subtle distinctions.

Many people are familiar with the bustling busy-body call of the White-Breasted Nuthatch as it trundles down tree trunks. Look for its smaller and less noisy cousin, the Red-Breasted Nuthatch, an adorable bird particularly oriented to conifers that will make occasional forays to the feeder. If the Tufted Titmouse, a small, gray bird with a characteristic crest, appears in your yard, rejoice -- their presence is very localized in Wendell. I've never had them in my yard on Gate Lane, yet they seem to be quite common near the center of town.

Those jolly elves of the wintertime woods, Black-capped Chickadees, are an easily recognized favorite of most people. Ever cheerful, chickadees are nature's contradiction to the winter blahs. If you stand outside next to your empty feeder with sunflower seed in your hand, one will undoubtedly zoom in for a quick landing, take a seed, and leave you with a treasured moment. I've been watching chickadees throughout the year, as they excavate rotted stumps to raise their broods, try out tender wings in flight, and become instantly adept in the woods. If you want to know anything about the woods, ask a chickadee. They know it all.

I became especially enamoured of chickadees last fall when I realized they were assisting young warblers on their journey south. The summer woods are full of these small colorful insect-eating birds that must depart for points south before cold weather sets in. After young warblers leave the nest and grasp the essentials of flying and foraging, the parents take off, leaving their juveniles to figure out how to get to destinations like Costa Rica on their own. And survive. An inexperienced young warbler, newly dressed in its feathered suit, is a vulnerable thing to be sure. Sooner or later, its going to bump into a friendly chickadee who knows 20 other friendly chickadees, who all know the best dining spots, the best hiding spots, and how to get from here to there without the neighborhood cat finding out. If I were a juvenile warbler, I would make a bee-line to the nearest chickadee. All fall long, I watched flocks of chickadees and assorted species of young warblers foraging together. I took great comfort in thinking of the Boreal Chickadees in the far north, the Black-capped variety of our region, and the Carolina Chickadees of the south all providing sanctuary to recently fledged travellers. You can have no better friend than a chickadee.

Once you get to know the locals, your bird-observant eyelids will start perking up at the sight of anything new and slightly different. (In the human dimension, this would be something like taking notice when someone wearing an unusual number of earrings, or a leather-clad London punk rocker, strolls into the Country Store.) You might hear a tiny "Oooooo...What's that?" escape from your lips. Now sometimes this might be a shy local, like the big, bumbling, flashy red-crested Pileated Woodpecker, or, a tardy migrant, like the tiny, quick-winged Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, practically smaller than a mouse, on whom it would be a gift indeed to spot the miniscule red crest. The other possibility, this time of year, is that you'll be looking at a winter visitor.

These are birds who've come south into New England for better pickings and lighter weather than they might experience further north, where they breed in the summertime. Tree Sparrows, Golden-Crowned Kinglets, and Pine Siskins are the typical winter visitors in our woods. Pine Siskins, a tiny finely streaked brown bird, tends to move around in flocks, as do Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and Goldfinches. These latter three species nest here and so are considered permanent residents, but they are most noticeable in winter, when they descend in large numbers on bird feeders. This event is one of winter's highlights for me, when a big flock of fat and sassy Evening Grosbeaks, with their graduated bright yellow plumage, noisily drop in to raid the backyard parlor. It is something akin to all one's relatives showing up for dinner unannounced. Today they'll be eating you out of house and home, tomorrow they'll show up at your best friend's house on the other side of Wendell, and next week, they'll be chowing down in Leverett. They're the gypsies of the winter bird world. Sadly this year, they've hardly visited me, perhaps because of the intensive logging on my road.

A word on feeding birds. I've found that black-oil sunflower seed is the most preferred menu item, and aside from putting out suet for the woodpeckers, its the only thing I feed birds in the woods. They seem to reject everything else. During prolonged cold periods, I've discovered Juncos, Mourning Doves, and sparrows will also dine on them. Of course, no bird feeding scene is complete without its daily squirrel raid. Relax and enjoy the whole show.

Winter is when owls mate, so pay attention. You may already be hearing more hooting than usual. Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, and Screech Owls are all present. The one I hear the most is the Great Horned Owl. If you listen closely you can tell the difference between the males and females. Males have a shorter call than females, typically 4-5 hoots in this rhythm: Hoo, hoo-oo, hoo, hoo. The female's call is lower in pitch, with more hoots, typically: Hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo-oo, hoo-oo. Happy listening! It is easier to hear an owl than to see one.

Something else to listen for: the two note song of the chickadees. I heard it for the first time the other day. As the days grow longer, you'll be hearing it more often. During February and March, it will probably be the only sound in the woods you could call birdsong. Long before the return of summer birds, chickadees are heralding the spring! What would we do without them?

Marcy Marchello

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# INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

We hope that the majority of residents in New Salem and Wendell are aware that Swift River School provides two wonderful pre-school programs open to all three and four year old children in both communities. The pre-school programs emphasize a developmental curriculum, stressing the philosophy that children learn best by doing.

Over five years ago, an Early childhood Advisory Council (comprised of parents, teachers, community representatives, the school principal and representatives from programs associated with early childhood intervention) was created as a support and resource organization for the pre-school programs. The Council's primary role is to advise the school system on issues relevant to the management of the pre-school programs, and to foster community involvement, awareness and support of these programs. The Early Childhood Council at Swift River presently meets on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year (with the exception of December) at 7:00 P.M. in the school's library. Council meetings are open to the public and we invite any interested persons to attend.

Current Council members are Bette Richard and Julie Hubbard, Co-Chairpersons; Beth Haggerty, Treasurer;, Lisa Finestone, Secretary; Pam Perrell, Linda Diemand, Sylvia Wetherby, Katharine Woodward, Christina Coolidge, Judy Jewett, Leonard Strauss and Vicky Van Zee. Ex-officio members (those without voting privileges) include Janet DuCharme and Gillian Idoine, pre-school teachers, and Mez Davis, pre-school aide.

This year's Council intends to publish a brief newsletter several times during the school year to keep the community informed of matters related to early childhood education at Swift River. Our pre-school programs have been an important and successful component of the educational opportunities available to all children in New Salem and Wendell. They have drawn together children from diverse backgrounds and those with special needs into an environment that offers rich learning experiences. Increasingly, studies have shown that sound, well run pre-school programs can have profound impact on children's "intellectual and social development." The pre-school programs at Swift River provide services and opportunities for young children that are not otherwise available in our rural setting. The fact that both programs were faced with over enrollment this school year attests to their success and importance within the communities of New Salem and Wendell.

During the past year, the Early Childhood Advisory Council has been under pressure to raise funds to supplement a pre-school budget that has been drastically reduced. The programs are funded primarily through a State Chapter 188 Early Childhood Grant, which has been greatly affected by the State's economic situation. Council members, pre-school parents, teachers and friends have all pitched in at a variety of fund raisers to lend support to the pre-school. In October, a "Fall Fest" was held on the school grounds in which craftspeople, those with tag sale items and other local organizations set up tables for a small fee. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative. Nevertheless, close to $400 was raised. On December 6th, Katie and Michael Bloomfield (with Andrew Kinsey and Doug Tanner) gave a concert at the Full Moon Coffeehouse in Wendell to benefit the pre-school. Council members and parents provided lots of wonderful baked goods for the bake sale table, which proved a huge success! The concert, which featured contemporary and traditional music, was enjoyed by everyone. All together, $404 was raised at the Coffeehouse.

Since the Spring of 1990, the Council, along with the help of pre-school parents. and friends, has managed to fund raise close to $2000! At this time, we wish to thank those in the community who have been so supportive of our fund raising efforts. The next Early Childhood Advisory Council's meeting is scheduled for February 13, 1991 at 7:00 P.M. in the Swift River School's library.

# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Recently, the Friends of the Wendell Free Library have purchased some videos and audio casettes. Some of the videos are "Madeline," "The Real Ghostbusters," "The Little Mermaid," and two versions of "Peter Pan." The cassettes include songs from Tom McCutcheon, The Amidons, Linda Arnold and more!! The library is now the proud owner of a beautiful, engraved book cart.

Jake Graton crafted this functional masterpiece of pine purchased by the Friends His labor was a gift to the library. A heartfelt thanks to Jake from all of us at the library!!

A big thank you to Sarah Stamell, Shoshi Gross, Donald, Meghan and Stephanie Clark, Ananda Babineau, Martha Philips, Mindy Hatch and Renee Reipold for their help!! I would also like at this time to thank our Board of Library Trustees for their hard work (which sometimes goes unnoticed) and of course Rosie and Dorthee for their work as well. We have got a great library!!

Stop in and check out a few books!!

Respectfully,
Mez Davis,
Wendell Free Library

# WAR TAX RESISTERS PENALTY FUND

Wendell may be unique in the high concentration of war tax resisters. War tax resisters' techniques vary from intentionally keeping their income below the taxable level to openly refusing all Federal Tax. Many of us have experienced the collection of penalties and interest. At times these penalties and interest amount to a great burden and makes it more difficult to make our statement (witness).

In 1982 the War Tax Resisters penalty Fund was started by members and friends of the North Manchester Fellowship of Reconciliation. The founders invited sympathetic people to form a bread base that would help sustain and support war tax resisters.

Resisters needing assistance with interest and penalties already collected by IRS submit requests to a committee for review. Documentation must include IRS collection form, a copy of their original letter of conscience to IRS or Congress.

Approximately three times per year the committee combines requests for reimbursement and sends our an appeal to all names on their mailing list. The fund does not reimburse any taxes collected, just the interest and penalties. For example, if the requests total $2000 and the fund has 500 names, they ask participants to send $4 each. To date the fund has reimbursed over $50,000 to more than 100 war tax resisters in 24 states.

For more information call me or write War Tax Resisters Penalty Fund P.O. Box 25 N. Manchester, IN 46962

Floyd Borakove

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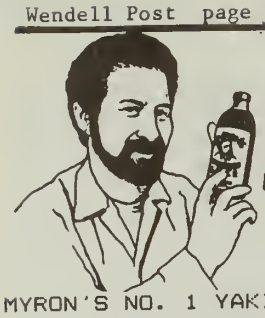

## MYRON'S DIVERSIFICATION

MYRON'S NO. 1 YAKITORI a Wendell based catering and concession business specializing in serving Japanese style grilled food at large festivals and events is reaching out in two related directions.

According to their new advertising, MYRON'S FINE FOODS CATERING, owned by long time Wendellian Chef Myron Becker assisted by local artist, and dessert/pastry specialist, Karen Pierce, is now offering their unique equipment and combined culinary expertise to provide "outrageously delicious and distinctive cuisine from around the world" for private functions.

In perhaps a more intrepid venture, MYRON'S NO. 1 YAKITORI has yielded to the demands of the market to manufacture, bottle and distribute for retail sale "MYRON'S NO. 1 YAKITORI SAUCE" on a regional basis. The sauce, which provides his Japanese style grilled products with their distinctive flavor, is an authentic, natural and traditional Japanese marinade, basting, table condiment and cooking sauce. It contains no MSG, corn syrup, artificial colors, flavorings, preservatives, thickening agents or added water. Myron claims that his sauce will "open up new culinary doors for you" and hopes that it will "unleash your creative culinary genius".

The sauce will soon be available in local specialty stores and co-ops.

## SOLAR ELECTRICITY

I want to share about a new project I'm involved in that may give significant answers to global warming, the oil and nuclear mess and the economic crunch.

Dr. Alvin Marks has impressive credentials as an inventor. He was the science consultant for the Kennedy Administration, invented polatizing substances (eg. sunglasses) and has 120 patents. Simply expressed, his last series of patents uses present scientific knowledge of photosynthesis, microwaves, and high tech miniature antennas to utilize 80% of the sun's energy on panels. Present silicon technology for solar energy are 10% efficient and very expensive.

Dr. Marks' claim of getting energy from the sun for 1 cent per kilowatt hour deserves much attention. I have explored Alvin Marks' background, as well as becoming his friend. He is a true scientist--very pragmatic; we're a highly unusual team. But it is true that differences can strengthen the whole, if minds are open. Dr. Marks is a humanist. He has resisted being bought or controlled by government or big business. His research and life is motivated by good will. He just happens to have a mind and focus of will to understand a part of the physical universe to the degree that he can discover new applications using what science has already discovered.

His expertise goes beyond theory, and is capable of applying his ideas into working models. Already, the Government of China is contributing scientists and technicians to work in the Bahamas. They're beginning research, development and production of the "Lumeloid" patented invention by Dr. Marks. Three major U.S. universities are performing tests and research. The Electric Power Research Institute is funding $200,000 Jan. 1 to begin the testing phase, with $300,000 to a university consortium, and a projected $500,000 follow-up funding.

In the meantime, however, investors and entrepreneurs in search of more information should contact Dr. Alvin Marks, c/o Advanced Research Development Inc., 359 R. Main St., Athol, MA 01331.

Jonathan Mark Haber

## SEAWEED: SEA'S GIFT

Seaweeds, or sea vegetables have been a part of the traditional diet of people in Japan, Korea, China, Ireland, Iceland, Denmark, Scotland and the South Pacific for centuries. Ancient Hawaiian nobility actually kept "limu" (edible algae) gardens! The various seaweeds offer us a renewable resource of food, fertilizer and medicine. Bathed in the mineral rich ocean, the sea vegetables offer us a concentrated source of the very nutrients our bodies need. Indeed, our blood contains all of the elements found in seawater.

Many of the sea vegetables can be used as a healthy salt substitute to enhance not only the flavor of our foods but to also provide nourishment for the nervous, hormonal and immune systems. Susan Weed in her book Healing Wise states that "Seaweed also inhibits the growth of many viruses, as well as certain bacteria." In future articles I would like to introduce you to more of the benefits, nutritional and medicinal, of these sea plants.

On February 24th, Larch and Cynthia Hanson, owners and main foragers of the Maine Seaweed Company, will be giving a lecture/slide show/tasting of the various sea weeds they gather and sell. Larch and Cynthia sell much of their harvest through mail order but also sell to the company Maine SeaCoast Vegetables which we see on the shelves of our coops and grocery stores. We enjoyed an afternoon visit with Larch this past summer at his home on Maine's rocky coast. He introduced us to the bay where he moors his boats and sets up enormous racks for drying the harvest. We wandered along the shore appreciating the beauty and power of the ocean, and ended the day with a tasting of the variety of sea vegetables Maine Seaweed Co. carries. As with food and herbs, the closer you can get to the source the higher the quality So it was with Larch's kelps, alaria (similar to wakame) and dulse. Yum! Sea vegetables are finding their way into our diet more since our visit.

So mark February 24th on your calendars. Look for posters or call Kate Gilday 544-2121 for time and place. In case you cannot make it to the talk and want to order high quality seaweeds you can write:

Maine Seaweed Company
P.O. Box 57
Steuben, ME 04680
or
Ryan Drum
Island Herbs
Waldron Island, WA 98297

In thoughts of sea greens!

Kate

## CARROLL'S CORNER MARKET

### Developing New Offerings at Familiar Location

**The familiar grocery store at the corner of South Main and West River Streets in Orange is expanding the variety of its goods and services. The new ownership and staff are working to serve the changing needs of local shoppers while it retains the responsiveness and attention possible in a small community market.**

**As before, the store provides a complete line of grocery items -- canned and frozen goods, milk and bread. These goods come in weekly, so special items can be easily ordered.**

**A highlight of the change is the focus on a delicatessen. In addition to standard deli fare (cold cuts, meats, domestic and imported cheeses) the staff is working to develop a menu of store-made grinders, sandwiches, soups, salads, party platters and meals for take-out or reheating at home. Future plans call for a seating area for lunch-time dining.**

**Even under previous management the store has been known for its fresh meat. Steaks and roasts are cut daily and lean hamburger is ground every day. Fresh fish arrives late every Wednesday afternoon.**

**Eggs, turkey, and maple syrup come from Wendell's Diemand farm. Other local suppliers are Doe Valley Bakery (French and challah bread, muffins, cookies), Baldwin Hill Bakery (all varieties of their sourdough bread), Yankee Strudel Bakery (fine and fancy pastry), Twin Willows (frozen natural turkey pies and soups).**

**The biggest change in the Corner Market's offerings is a growing line of natural and organic food selections, and health and body-care products. These range from shampoos and creams to bulk grains, nuts, tofu, and unsulfured dried fruits.**

**The staff takes particular care to tend a well stocked display of fresh produce. These goods arrive three times a week. The variety of vegetables is changed slightly every week and the staff is especially open to suggestions for new items.**

**The store is open seven days a week from 7am til 9pm except Saturday and Sunday when it opens at 8am.**

**The Corner Market is part of a planned development by owner Bob Madrigan for all of the Market's building and the one next to it, which together once made up the New Home Sewing Machine factory. In the one building beside the Miller's River, plans are to create retail space similar to a small Thorne's or Faces Markets. Loft, residential, and office space is to be constructed in both buildings. A parking area will be developed in the rear.**

**Michael Idoine**

CARROLL'S CORNER MARKET

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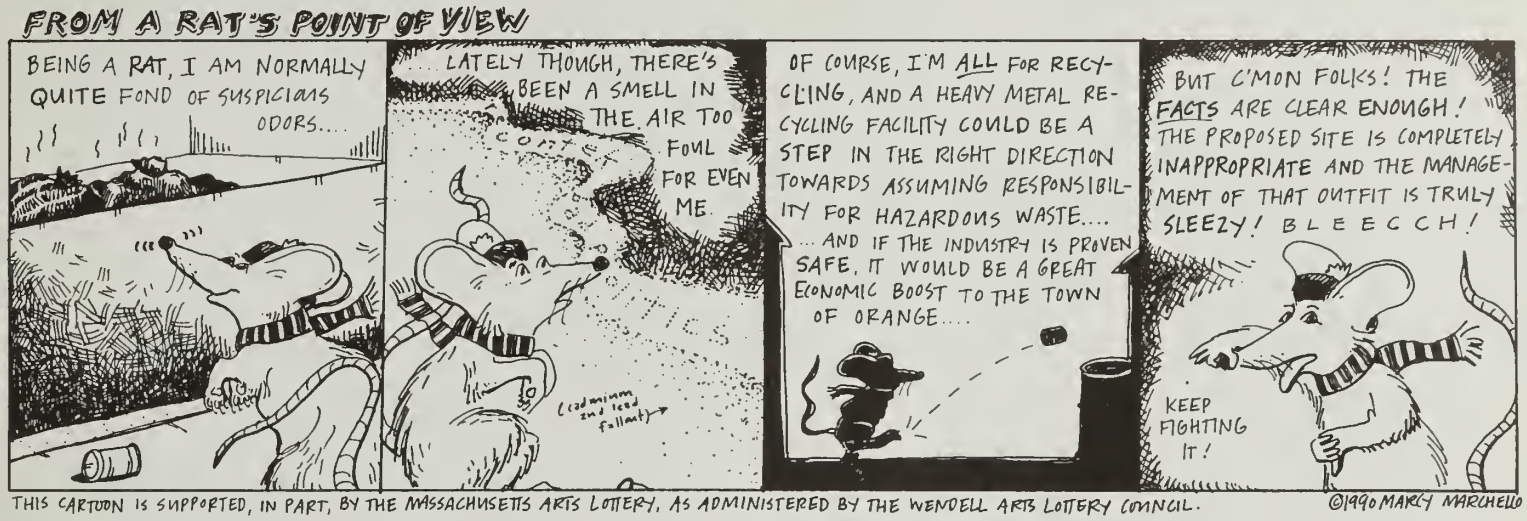


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# LIBRARY CLUB MEMBERS AT WORK

Have you noticed how good things are looking at the library these days? The thanks belongs to the Library Club. Active since the Autumn of 1990, this group of volunteers has taken the library on by storm and things have not been the same since.

It started quite innocently when Sarah Stammel, 11, came in one day wondering if she could help out. We put her to work on the spot. I suspicioned we may have stumbled into something important when nine year old Caralee Manley came in about twenty minutes later, saw Sarah behind the desk and said, "Wow! That looks like fun; I can't wait 'till I'm old enough to work here!" We arranged that Sarah would come back each Wed. for a two hour shift to assist me.

When it rains it pours. The following Saturday, completely inconnected, Donald, Meghan, and Stephanie Clark arrived offering their assistance. We set up an hour and a half work shift for them on Saturday mornings. The next thing I know Shoshi Gross, Ananda Babineau and Martha Phillips, (all are friends of Sarah) sign up for shifts too. Voila! , the Library Club materialized!

The first weeks were a little . overwhelming as we - me and "the club" - figured out what tasks are most suited for all this youthful energy. All worked behind the desk several shifts checking in and out library materials, and working with the public. All had to get more comfortable with the terms "fiction" and "non-fiction", and come to understand a patron's right to privacy concerning materials she or he might read or checkout.

Depending on which shift these assistants work, they learn different aspects of the job. The Clark kids, who arrive Saturday mornings, have learned some of the details of opening up shop. Ananda, helps me with the mail. Martha, who is often here at 3:30 on Saturdays can help organize and tally the days transactions. Everybody has learned some aspect of reshelving books, and pitches in on it, but nobody seems to particularly like it - including me.

For several weeks the club worked on the basement which had flooded two Springs ago and has never come back into useable order. The club sorted through and organized many piles of periodicals, and catalogs and made shelf lables for them. They helped get the trash out and vacuum. And now, although the floor is still bumpy from the flood, the room is open again, with good lighting and a study table ready for use. And, back issues of periodicals are accessible.

The club's newest task has been learning how to prepare new and donated books for cataloging. This is the work that needs to be done before a book ever reaches the shelves. The job requires the use of excellent penmanship and calls for close attention to detail.

Much has been said about the virtues and values of volunteerism in this town. My experiences with the Library Club tells me that perhaps we have overlooked a most valuable group_Wendell youth. Wendell has not a developed rural economy with all its related needs and activities, but nor, thankfully, are we quite a suburb with all its usual "provided" activities. Its hard for kids to find nitches in a town like ours where they can feel their participation in the community makes an authentic contribution; where they can give back as well as receive services all the while gaining new skills and exposure to adult work. I'm glad these kids figured out the library is a place this can happen. I'm wondering what other places in town they, and we, have overlooked.

If all goes planned, a large undertaking will happen at the library as this paper goes to press. That is, an entire rearrangemennt of library materials to make better use of space.

This marathon event is scheduled for Jan. 20th. The work force will include the Library Club, the Girl Scouts, who brought us the story hour and (hopefully) several of our adult volunteers.

P.S. Special thanks to Jake Graton who built us a one of a kind designer book cart, and to the Friends of the Library, who provided the money for the materials. Its helped all of us at the library like reshelving books just a little bit better.

# OF SUNSETS & BERRIES

A walk on the powerlines near Waffle Hill, A Point on the Circle, brought two powerful thoughts (among many) to my consciousness. The first came when I stopped for a few moments and climbed one of the towers upon which Boston's lifeblood flows through copper cables. There was quite a view from the top: Mt. Wachusett to the east; hills of Quabbin to the south; Wendell and hills beyond to the west; and Mt. Grace to the north. I recalled the many sunsets I'd seen from Grace and Mt. Cragg in Northfield and I was grateful to the Creator for my life. I was grateful for the many many sunsets I'd seen on my path.

And then a thought welled up within: I was grateful for the path I'd chosen, a life in which viewing sunsets was a priority--a priority above working "for the man/woman" and the cash she/he baits me with.

Sure, I work, and I work hard. But I work because of the life that flows in me, and I work because of the joy I've experienced when I silently watch the sun go down and the Divine Artiste paint an awesome sky. I don't work in order to create leisure time--time I can somehow carve out of an overly busy life to climb Mt. Cragg to see a sunset. I go to my work joyously because of all the sunsets I've seen (and other joyous things). My priority is not "work in order to be able to afford a sunset". My priority is "Sunset ...then work from a place of joy."

Am I making any sense? And if you catch me falling short, please haul me to a sunset and ask me to join in a song.

The other thought I had, as I meandered down the powerlines, was a bit briefer, a lot sadder. I spied some huge winterberries growing close to the ground. They were fat, and looked delicious. I stooped to pick some to munch and to take home to Josh, Deva, and whoever else happened to be at Point On the Circle.

But then I remembered the helicopters--and the spray (or the threat of the spray)--and the after-effects. So I let the berries alone. And cried inwardly, a quick, mellow cry: it's too bad we have to destroy so much in order to live.

Ed Brindle

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# FULLMOON STILL SHINES AFTER 6 YEARS

Coffeehouses evoke images of dimly lit cellars, cheap munchies, and entertainment ranging form very good to painfully bad. For many of us in our middle years the coffeehouse scene of the sixties and early seventies was a major part of our social coming of age, during the hayday of Joni Mitchell, Tom Rush, Odetta, Dylan, and other great folk revivalists. I remember those smoky late nights with a sleepy fondness, and all these years later I still go out of my way for a night at a good coffeehouse.

Luckily, one of the best in the area is just a few miles from my home. Wendell's Full Moon Coffeehouse, now in its sixth year, has grown into an event with a reputation for excellence which attracts talented local performers as well as an increasing number of nationally-known artists. It began as a fundraiser for Bear Mountain Preservation, Inc., a coalition of non-profit organizations fighting the placement of Route 2 through Bear Mountain State Park. Joshua Jay Dostis, one of Full Moon's founders, explained that when there was no longer a pressing need to fund the Bear Mountain action, they decided to continue the coffeehouse to benefit other grassroots organizations and local people.

These days Full Moon is coordinated by a committee of a dozen people, including Dostis. Working cooperatively they decide logistics, finances, and performers for the monthly events. Benefitting the communiity has continued to be a major focus for the group, with proceeds from each coffeehouse going to a local beneficiary such as the Swift River Preschool, Blue Angel Arts, NELCWIT, and the Friends of the Sawmill River. "We even make contributions to the Wendell Arts Lottery, so there's more local arts money available for distribution," Dostis said.

The coffeehouses are held at the Wendell Town Hall, a comfortable room with a small stage and lots of cabaret-style seating, though the performances are often standing room only. People come from around the area to support the many good causes funded by Full Moon and because of the quality of the performers. "We started out with mostly local performers in a more laid back setting," Dostis said. "Now it's getting so we're attracting big names. We had Lui Collins last year, and Patty Larkin will be here later this year. Lots of artists are applying to perform."

Almost every Full Moon Coffeehouse begins with an hour of open mike time for new and lesser known local performers. Suzy Polucci is a Wendell actress and writer who sees the open mike as another important way Full Moon benefits the community. Polucci, whose stage name is Suzy Q, used the open mike to begin creating characters she'd had in mind but never had a chance to develop. From those early sketches she wrote skits like "Who Wrote the Book of Love," "Why Do Fools Fall In Love," and "Mood Swings," which explore the complexities of emotions and relationships. These were subsequently performed at the coffeehouse by a changing troupe of players headed by Polucci. "Last show we did in Wendell we packed the house and had to turn perple away. They showed up hours early and came from all over," she said.

Good causes and good entertainment aside, many people attend the coffeehouse each month to be in the company of friends in a chemical free, smoke free environment. Wendell is known as a small town where family and community are important, and the coffeehouse reflects that. It's a place to see neighbors and friends, catch up on the news, meet newcomers, hook into other community events, and - my favorite - enjoy the wonderful "Desert-O-Rama" spread of fresh baked goodies and healthy beverages. "It's special to put together a space each month where people can perform and interact with others from their own community," Dostis said.

Not surprisingly, the Full Moon Coffeehouse takes place September through June on the Saturday following the full moon, "which is a great ad for us," Dostis explained. "People look up and see the full moon and think, "Wow, let's go to Wendell!" Open mike begins at 7:30, and coffeehouses frequently run till after midnight. People come and go throughout the evening, and the sliding scale admission of $5-$10 helps keep it an affordable night out.

FULLMOON COFFEEHOUSE

COMING EVENTS

FEB 2 CINDY MANGSON & STEVE GILLETTE

MAR 2 WHOLESALE KLEZMER

APR 6 DAVE ROBINSON AND THE BLUE DOGS

APR 27 JAY UNGER AND MOLLY MASON

JUN 1ST PATTY LARKIN

Producing an event each month for six years takes an extraordinary amount of time and commitment from the volunteer coordinators. When I asked what the rewards are Dostis' response was heartfelt. "It's such a good feeling to do something positive for the community. I think the success we've had with the Full Moon Coffeehouse inspires other communities to start their own, as we've been inspired by what other communities have done."

Jeanne Donado

# SINGER AT CRAFTS CENTER

Marcia Taylor, Singer/Songwriter in Concert, also Gideon Fruedmann, Innovative Cellist on Feb. 9, 1991 at 7:30 PM at THE POET'S BARTER, at the Leverett Crafts and Arts Center, Leverett, Massachusetts. Call (413) 548-9070 for more information.

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# CAFE SWIFT

Swift River School will host its bi-annual Cafe Swift on Saturday, Feb. 9, 7-9 P.M. Cafe Swift gives elementary age children a chance to perform on stage in a successful atmosphere. The acts include dancing, singing, story telling, jokes, and musical instrument playing.

Sometimes there are even surprize performances! The Early Childhood Council will host a bake sale the same evening. Goodies such as brownies, cookies, popcorn, and juice will be available to purchase. Admission is $2.00 - Adults, $1.00 for Children for this night of FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT. All are welcome. For info. call 544-6926. Join in the fun.

Mez Davis

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Ages: Grade 1-4

Wednesdays (8 wks.) 3-4 P.M. starting April 17 at the Wendell Meetinghouse

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Call 544-7702 for more info.

Registration Sundays 9-1 P.M., Wendell Country Store.

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Daria Nielson

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